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The President's Daily Brief

3 December 1970

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 December 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Laotian troops are continuing to advance on Ban Ban with little enemy opposition. *(Page 1)*

East German harassment of access routes to West Berlin has continued as Warsaw Pact leaders held a one-day summit meeting in East Berlin. *(Page 2)*

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In northwest Laos, the Chinese may be resuming road construction southwest of Muong Sai toward the Mekong. *(Page 4)*

The major Soviet naval vessels that have been in Caribbean waters are now headed out into the Atlantic. *(Page 5)*

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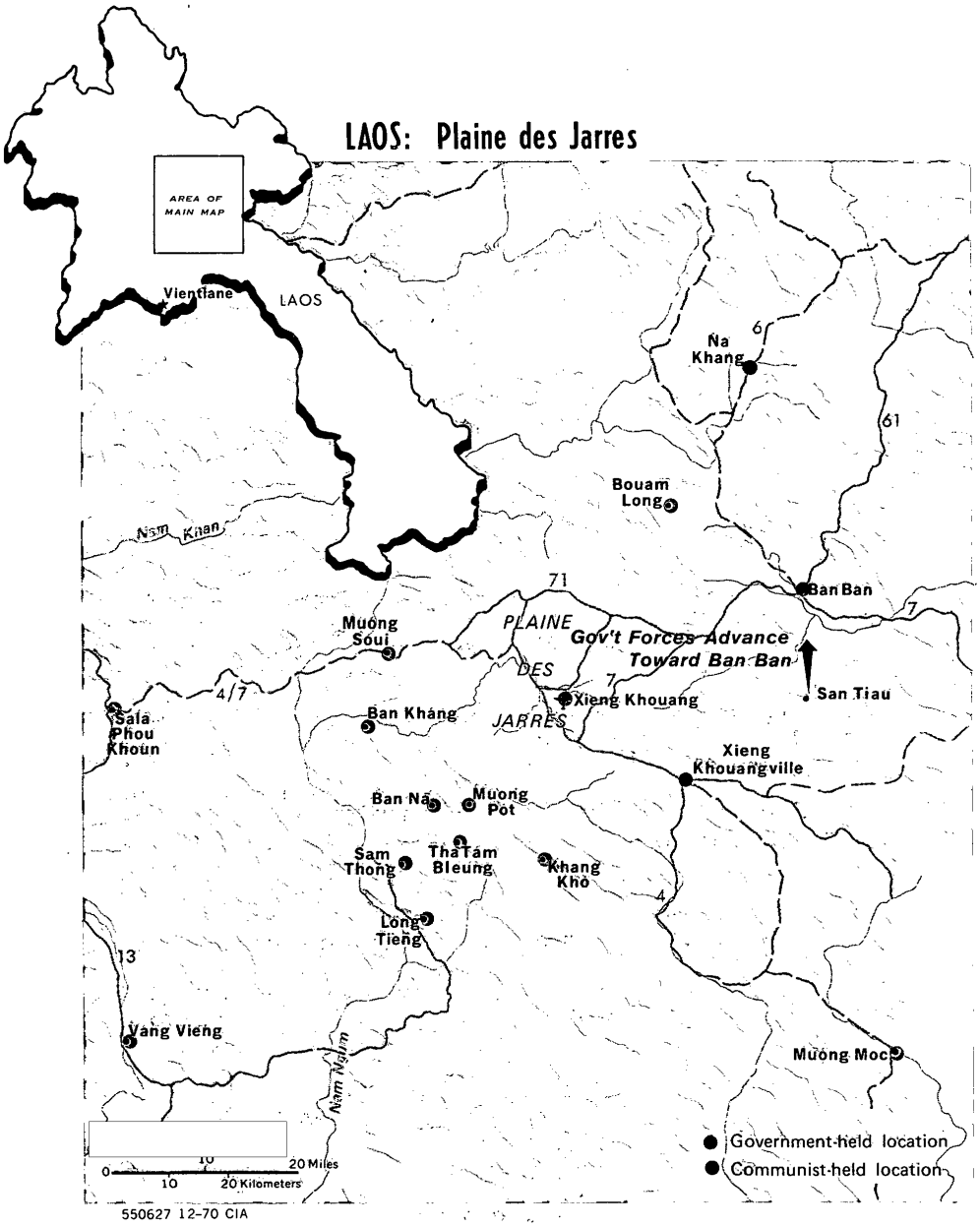

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LAOS

Government irregulars advancing toward Ban Ban from the south secured their initial objective, the San Tiau airstrip, on 1 December. So far, they have encountered little opposition and have had minimal casualties. An additional 350 troops have been flown into San Tiau, raising government strength in this area to 1,310.

The enemy appears to be relying only on local defense forces to oppose the government advance. Elements of two North Vietnamese regiments located on the eastern edge of the Plaine des Jarres could be moved to the Ban Ban area, however, as the fighting develops.

Communist forces to the southwest of the Plaine have stepped up mortar and artillery fire around Ban Na and Khang Kho in the past two days.

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WARSAW PACT - BERLIN

The communiqué issued following the one-day Warsaw Pact summit meeting in East Berlin yesterday avoided any mention of specific problems. Cited first in the list of topics discussed was the question of "strengthening the security and the development of peaceful cooperation in Europe." The communiqué also stated that the meeting took place in an atmosphere of "complete unanimity."

The East Germans continue to harass access routes to West Berlin although the severity of the traffic slowdowns has fluctuated. The meeting in West Berlin of representatives of the Federal Republic's Christian Democratic Party--initially cited as the cause of the harassment--is over, but East German officials at two checkpoints indicated that the harassment would continue until 6 December, the date of a meeting of the rightist National Democratic Party in West Berlin. The harassment may even continue into 6-8 December when Federal Republic President Heinemann plans to visit Berlin.

Ulbricht appears to be dramatizing his regime's capabilities at a time when the Warsaw Pact countries have been discussing anew the apparent differences that most of them have with Pankow over relations with Bonn. [redacted] 50X1

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USSR-EGYPT

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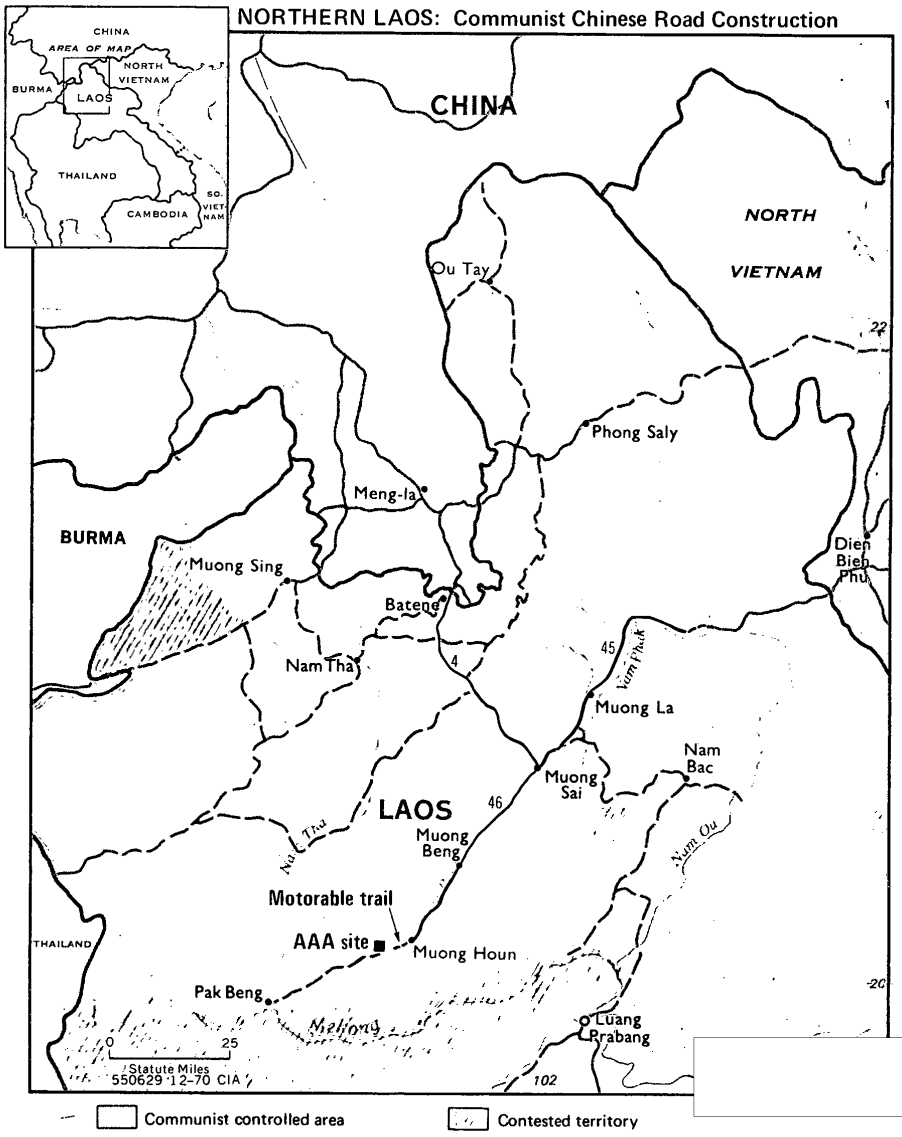
NORTHERN LAOS: Communist Chinese Road Construction



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COMMUNIST CHINA - LAOS

Recent photography of the Muong Houn area, where Chinese road construction southwest of Muong Sai was terminated last February, shows that a motorable trail has been extended six miles farther southwest down the Nam Beng River valley. In addition, work is under way on two new bridges in the Muong Houn area.

The new trail follows a logical route toward Pak Beng on the Mekong. At present it leads to an antiaircraft position. A Laotian civil aircraft was damaged in this area by antiaircraft fire on 26 November.

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Similar buildups have occurred during the past two years when extensions of the road network have increased the manpower requirements for defense and maintenance. The estimated strength of Chinese forces in Laos is some 10-14,000 troops.

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NOTE

USSR-Cuba: All major Soviet naval units that have been in the Caribbean are headed out into the Atlantic, but there is no evidence as yet as to their ultimate destination. The Soviet submarine tender exited into the Atlantic on 1 December. A guided-missile frigate and a naval oiler that had entered Caribbean waters on 30 November have reversed their course and entered the Atlantic yesterday. A nuclear-powered C-class attack submarine may be with the frigate. The two support barges are still in Cienfuegos but the exact location of the rescue tug, which has left the port, has not yet been determined.

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